

ZZ  
RNR8

\*\*\*\*\*U R G E N T

*Severcraft - LL*

MIDEAST--HALT

KUWAIT, OCT. 21, REUTER--KUWAIT TODAY ANNOUNCED A HALT OF OIL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES AND AN IMMEDIATE 10 PER CENT CUT IN OVERALL PRODUCTION, TO BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER CUTS OF FIVE PER CENT EACH MONTH.

MORE PK/JK0639

ZZ  
RNR9

MIDEAST--HALT 2 KUWAIT

THE CUTS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON OTHER COUNTRIES -- BESIDES THE U.S. -- WHICH WERE FRIENDLY WITH ISRAEL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED AFTER A CABINET MEETING.

THE FINANCE AND OIL MINISTER, ABDEL-RAHMAN AL-ATIQUI, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH AL AHMED WOULD DECIDE WHICH WERE THE OTHER TARGETS FOR KUWAIT'S "OIL WEAPON" IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

KUWAIT, HOST TO A MEETING OF 10 ARAB OIL MINISTERS LAST WEEK WHICH PRODUCED A CONTROVERSIAL COMPROMISE FORMULA FOR JOINT USE OF ARAB OIL AS AN INDIRECT WEAPON IN THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, WAS ONE OF THE LAST OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION.

MINISTER OF STATE ABDEL-AZIZ HUSSEIN TOLD REPORTERS THE FINANCE AND OIL MINISTER HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED FOR AN URGENT STUDY ON WHAT OTHER MEASURES, ECONOMIC IN GENERAL AND OIL-RELATED IN PARTICULAR, KUWAIT MIGHT BRING TO BEAR ON ISRAEL'S SUPPORTERS.

THE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN, HUSSEIN SAID, "IN ACCORDANCE WITH KUWAITI POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR."

THE CUTTING OF ALL OIL EXPORTS TO U.S., INCLUDING REFINED AS WELL AS CRUDE OIL, WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT IN ITSELF -- EXPORTS TO THAT MARKET TOTALLING ONLY AROUND TWO PER CENT OF KUWAIT'S THREE MILLION BARRELS PER DAY OUTPUT.

JAPAN AND BRITAIN ARE TWO OF THE MAJOR IMPORTERS FROM KUWAIT, ALONG WITH OTHER EUROPEAN AND FAR EASTERN COUNTRIES. REUTER JCK/JK0651